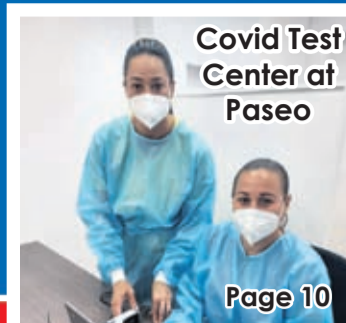




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ON THE HOUSE

House OKs \$2T social, climate bill in Biden win; Senate next

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., presides over House passage of President Joe Biden's expansive social and environment bill, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, Nov. 19, 2021.

Associated Press
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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:
TICO KOCK
STEEL DRUM
4 - 6pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
PAULA RIDERSTAP
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

THURSDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
7 - 9pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
7 - 9pm

SATURDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

PAULA RIDERSTAP
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

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HAPPY HOUR
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House OKs \$2T social, climate bill in Biden win; Senate next

From Front

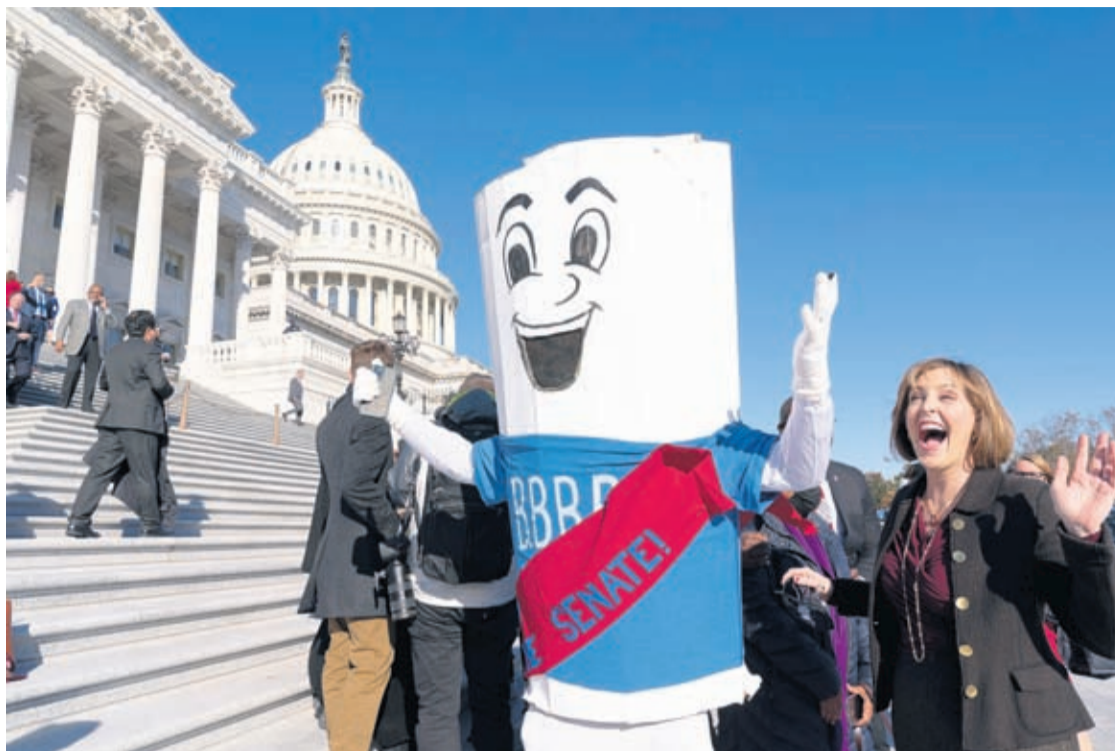
By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A fractious U.S. House handed President Joe Biden a marquee victory Friday by approving a roughly \$2 trillion social and environment bill, as Democrats cast aside disputes that for months had stalled the measure and hampered efforts to sell their priorities to voters.

Lawmakers approved the legislation 220-213 as every Democrat but one backed it, overcoming unanimous Republican opposition. The measure now heads to the Senate, where changes are certain and disputes between cost-conscious Democratic moderates and progressives who seek bold policy changes will flare renew.

For the moment, Democrats were happy to shake off a dispiriting period of off-year election setbacks, tumbling Biden poll numbers and public disgruntlement over inflation, stalled supply chains and the pandemic. All that and the party's nasty internal bickering have left voters with little idea of how the legislation might help them, polls have shown.

"Above all, it puts us on the path to build our economy back better than before by rebuilding the backbone of America: working people and the middle class," Biden said in a statement. He told reporters at the White House he expected the legislation to "take



A man dressed as the "Build Back Better" reacts, Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, on Capitol Hill in Washington, after House passage of President Joe Biden's expansive social and environment bill. Associated Press

awhile" to move through the Senate but declared, "I will sign it. Period."

The legislation, among the most expensive in years, is remarkable for its reach. It rewrites tax, health care, environment, education, housing and other policies, shoring up low- and middle-income families, helping the elderly and combating climate change.

Most of it would be paid for with tax boosts on the country's highest earners, biggest corporations and companies doing business abroad. That includes new surtaxes on people earning over \$10 million annually and a corporate minimum tax.

Because of its size, scope and symbol of what Democrats stand for, each party thinks the package will help in next year's midterm elections, when Republicans have a solid chance at capturing House and Senate control.

"Hey, hey, goodbye," GOP lawmakers sang, taunting Democrats during the vote. Republicans call the measure a waste of money that will worsen budget deficits, overheat an inflation-battered economy and show voters that Democrats can't resist ever-larger government.

Democrats see the 2,100-page legislation as over-

due and long-lasting help for a vast swath of the nation.

The bill "will be the pillar of health and financial security in America," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. "If you are a parent, a senior, a child, a worker, if you are an American, this bill is for you."

"Build Back Better," chanted Democrats, embracing and jumping with glee at the front of the chamber as the roll call wound down. That's the name Biden has given the bill — a companion piece to his other domestic priority, the bipartisan \$1 trillion package of broadband, road and other infrastructure projects he signed into law this week.

In Congress' latest dose of partisan bitterness, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., delayed the latest bill's expected approval on Thursday when he unleashed an eight hour 32 minute diatribe against the legislation, the president and Democrats.

McCarthy glared as Democrats booed and groaned during what became the longest speech in House history, remarks that included personal insults aimed at Pelosi.

As minority leader in 2018, she held the previous record, speaking for eight hours and seven minutes

about immigration.

"I don't know if it's a farewell tour," McCarthy said of recent trips to Europe by Pelosi, who some think may be serving her last term in Congress. "If it is, I want a T-shirt."

Most of the bill's costs come from mountains of new spending, though there are also hundreds of billions in tax credits for encouraging certain goals.

It has over \$500 billion for clean energy projects plus tax incentives for utilities turning to less polluting fuels and people buying electric vehicles. There's money for child care, job training, housing, free preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds, in-home care for seniors and new hearing benefits for Medicare recipients.

People, and the government, too, would save money from new curbs on prescription drug prices, though the provisions are modest compared to tougher requirements most Democrats preferred. There would be extended tax credits for families with children, for some low-earning workers and for people purchasing private health coverage.

In language that helped win support from lawmakers from high-cost coastal states, the bill would increase federal deductions

people can take for state and local taxes.

The provision, which would largely benefit affluent earners, would cost above \$220 billion over the next five years, making it one of the legislation's costliest programs.

The measure would also finance a new requirement for four weeks of paid family leave and create temporary work permits so millions of immigrants could remain in the U.S. up to a decade. Both face an uncertain fate in the Senate.

That chamber's 50-50 split plus solid GOP opposition gives every Democrat veto power. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., who helped slash the bill's 10-year cost from its earlier \$3.5 trillion, has opposed the family leave provision. And the Senate parliamentarian enforces rules that make it hard to include policy-heavy provisions like major immigration law changes.

The bill would worsen projected budget deficits, already huge, by \$160 billion over the coming decade, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated. That would be higher except for \$127 billion in projected extra tax collections by bolstering IRS spending for audits, largely of the rich.

Both parties worry about deficits selectively. Republicans passed tax cuts in 2017 that worsened red ink by \$1.9 trillion, while Democrats enacted a COVID-19 relief bill this year with that same price tag.

Rep. Jared Golden of Maine, one of Congress' more conservative Democrats, was the only no vote from his party.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan organization favoring fiscal constraint, estimated the bill would cost nearly \$5 trillion if Democrats hadn't made some provisions temporary to be more affordable. For instance, tax credits for children are extended for just one year, even though Democrats would make them permanent if they could. □

ARUBA CLEAN



IS MORE DUSHI

California wildfires torch thousands of giant sequoia trees

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lightning-sparked wildfires killed thousands of giant sequoias this year, adding to a staggering two-year death toll that accounts for up to nearly a fifth of Earth's largest trees, officials said Friday.

Fires in Sequoia National Park and the surrounding national forest that also bears the trees' name tore through more than a third of groves in California and torched an estimated 2,261 to 3,637 sequoias, which are the largest trees by volume. Fires in the same area last year killed an unprecedented 7,500 to 10,400 of the 75,000 trees that are only native in about 70 groves scattered along the western side of the Sierra Nevada range.

Intense fires that burned hot enough and high enough to kill so many giant sequoias — trees once considered nearly fire-proof — puts an exclamation point on the impact of climate change. The combination of a warming planet that has created hotter droughts and a century of fire suppression that choked forests with thick undergrowth have fueled blazes that have sounded the death knell for trees that date back to ancient civilizations.

"The sobering reality is that



In this photo provided by the National Park Service, an NPS employee and a journalist explore an area of Redwood Canyon that burned during the KNP complex fire in Kings Canyon National Park, Calif., on Nov. 7, 2021.

we have seen another huge loss within a finite population of these iconic trees that are irreplaceable in many lifetimes," said Clay Jordan, superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. "As spectacular as these trees are we really can't take them for granted. To ensure that they're around for our kids and grandkids and great grandkids, some action is necessary."

California has seen its largest fires in the past five years, with last year setting a record for most acreage burned. So far, the second-

largest amount of land has burned this year.

After last year's Castle and SQF Complex fires took officials by surprise by wiping out so many sequoias, extraordinary measures were taken to save the largest and oldest trees this year. The General Sherman tree — the largest living thing on earth — and other ancient trees that are the backdrop for photos that often fail to capture grandeur of the giant sequoias was wrapped in a foil blanket.

A type of fire-retardant gel, similar to that used as absorbent in baby's diapers,

was dropped on tree canopies that can exceed 200 feet (60 meters) in height. Sprinklers watered down trunks and flammable matter was raked away from trees.

The measures spared the Giant Forest, the premiere grove of ancient trees in the park, but the measures couldn't be deployed everywhere.

The bulk of the Suwanee grove in the park burned in an extreme fire in the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River drainage. The Starvation Complex grove in Sequoia National Forest was

largely destroyed, based on estimates of how much burned at high-severity.

In 2013, the park had done climate modeling that predicted extreme fires wouldn't jeopardize sequoias for another 50 years, said Christy Brigham, chief of resource management and science at the two parks. But that was at the start of what became a punishing five-year drought that essentially broke the model.

Amid the drought in 2015, the park saw giant sequoias torched for the first time. Two fires in 2017 killed more giant sequoias. Just over 200 giant sequoias were killed in the fires that served as a warning for what was to come.

A full mortality count from last year's fire is still not available because crews in the forest were in the process of confirming how many trees died when lightning struck Sept. 9, igniting the Windy Fire in Sequoia National Forest and the SQF Complex in the park, Brigham said.

Not all the news in the park's report on the fires was bleak.

While fire burned into 27 groves and large numbers of trees were incinerated, a lot of low-intensity fire that sequoias need to thrive will clear out vegetation and the heat from flames will open cones so they can spread their seeds. □

Associated Press

Rare first printing of U.S. Constitution sells for record \$43M

By KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A rare first printing of the U.S. Constitution sold at Sotheby's in New York for \$43.2 million, a record price for a document or book sold at auction. The anonymous winning bidder at Thursday night's sale outbid a group of 17,000 cryptocurrency enthusiasts from around the world who crowdfunded to buy it over the last week. The document offered for sale was one of 13 known copies of the first printing of the Constitution and one of only two in private hands. This printing of the Constitution was last sold in 1988,

when real estate developer and collector S. Howard Goldman bought it at auction for \$165,000.

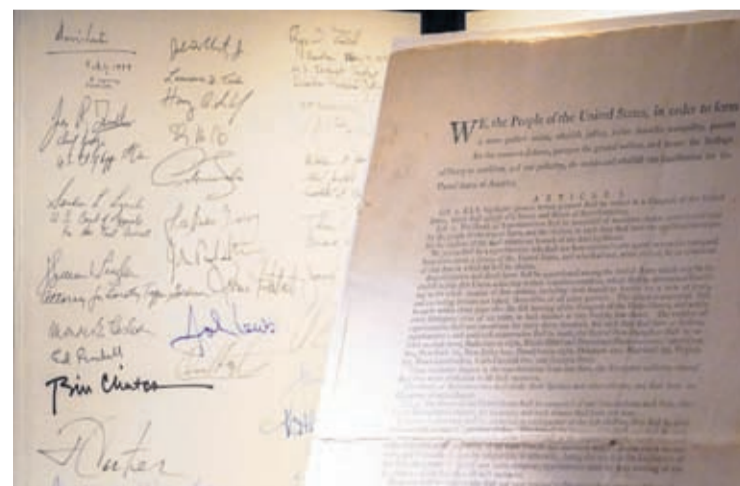
Proceeds from Thursday's sale will benefit a foundation established by Goldman's widow, Dorothy Taper Goldman, to further the understanding of constitutional principles.

"Tonight's sale of this exceptionally rare and important printing of the Constitution was a monumental and historic occasion," Selby Kiffer, Sotheby's senior international specialist for books and manuscripts, said in a statement.

Kiffer said the auction result reflects how relevant

the Constitution remains, "not only in America but for global democracy."

The underbidder was ConstitutionDAO, which announced its plan to raise millions of dollars to buy the Constitution on Twitter on Nov. 12. DAO stands for decentralized autonomous organization, a type of community-run business that operates on the blockchain. ConstitutionDAO tweeted Thursday night, "We showed the world what crypto and web3, onboarding thousands of people in the process, including museum curators and art directors who are now excited to keep learn-



A detail of a first printing of the United States Constitution is displayed at Sotheby's auction house during a press preview on Nov. 5, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

ing." The group added, "We were the first DAO Sothebys

has ever worked with, but we're sure we won't be the last one." □

Interior secretary seeks to rid U.S. of derogatory place names

By SUSAN MONTOYA
BRYAN

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) —

U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on Friday formally declared “squaw” a derogatory term and said she is taking steps to remove it from federal government use and to replace other derogatory place names. Haaland is ordering a federal panel tasked with naming geographic places to implement procedures to eliminate what she called racist terms from federal use. The decision provides momentum to a movement that has included the dismantling of other historical markers and monuments considered offensive across the country.

“Our nation’s lands and waters should be places to celebrate the outdoors and our shared cultural heritage — not to perpetuate the legacies of oppression,” Haaland said in a statement. “Today’s actions will accelerate an important process to reconcile derogatory place names and mark a significant step in honoring the ancestors who have stewarded our lands since time immemorial.”

The first Native American to lead a Cabinet agency, Haaland is from Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico. The U.S. Senate on Thursday



The Olympic rings stand atop a sign at the entrance to the Squaw Valley Ski Resort in Olympic Valley, Calif., on July 8, 2020.

Associated Press

confirmed Oregon resident and tribal citizen Charles F. “Chuck” Sams III as head of the National Park Service, making him the first Native American to hold the position.

Haaland said previously that Sams, a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, would be an asset as the administration works to make national parks more accessible to everyone.

The Native American Rights Fund applauded Haaland’s move to address derogatory place names, saying action by the fed-

eral government is long overdue.

“Names that still use derogatory terms are an embarrassing legacy of this country’s colonialist and racist past,” said John Echohawk, the group’s executive director. “It is well past time for us, as a nation, to move forward, beyond these derogatory terms, and show Native people — and all people — equal respect.” Environmentalists also praised the action, saying it marked a step toward reconciliation.

The task force will be made

up of representatives from federal land management agencies and experts with the Interior Department. Tribal consultation and public feedback will be part of the process.

The process for changing U.S. place names can take years, and federal officials said there are currently hundreds of proposed name changes pending before the board.

Haaland also called for the creation of an advisory committee to solicit, review and recommend changes to other derogatory geographic and federal place

names. That panel will be made up of tribal representatives and civil rights, anthropology and history experts.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Board on Geographic Names took action to eliminate the use of derogatory terms for Black and Japanese people.

The board also voted in 2008 to change the name of a prominent Phoenix mountain from Squaw Peak to Piestewa Peak to honor Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, the first Native American woman to die in combat while serving in the U.S. military.

In California, the Squaw Valley Ski Resort changed its name to Palisades Tahoe earlier this year. The resort is in Olympic Valley, which was known as Squaw Valley until it hosted the 1960 Winter Olympics. Tribes in the region had been asking the resort for a name change for decades.

Colorado’s advisory naming panel also has recommended renaming Squaw Mountain near Denver in honor of a Native American woman who acted as a translator for tribes and white settlers in the 19th century. Northern Cheyenne tribal members also filed an application with the federal naming board in October to change the mountain’s name. □

FBI looks at land near N.J. landfill for Jimmy Hoffa’s remains



This photo shows Teamsters Union president Jimmy Hoffa in Washington on July 26, 1959.

Associated Press

By DEEPTI HAJELA and
ED WHITE
Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — The decadeslong odyssey to find the remains of Jimmy

Hoffa, a tenacious leader of the Teamsters union, apparently has turned to land next to a former New Jersey landfill that sits below an elevated highway.

The FBI obtained a search warrant to “conduct a site survey underneath the Pulaski Skyway,” said Mara Schneider, a spokeswoman for the Detroit field office.

“On October 25th & 26th, FBI personnel from the Newark and Detroit field offices completed the survey and that data is currently being analyzed,” Schneider said in a statement Friday.

She didn’t indicate whether anything was removed. “Because the affidavit in

support of the search warrant was sealed by the court, we are unable to provide any additional information,” Schneider said. The FBI’s disclosure is another turn in a mystery that has gripped law enforcement for more than 45 years.

Hoffa was last seen on July 30, 1975, when he was to meet with reputed Detroit mob enforcer Anthony “Tony Jack” Giacalone and alleged New Jersey mob figure Anthony “Tony Pro” Provenzano at a restaurant in suburban Detroit. The focus now is in Jersey City, below a four-lane bridge where the sound of cars and trucks doesn’t

stop. Wild overgrown brush thrives in the gritty industrial area, and green dumpsters abound.

No one nearby at Interstate Waste Services offered a comment.

“I’ve been assured that the body hasn’t been dug up yet,” journalist Dan Moldea told The Associated Press, referring to the FBI’s work in October.

Moldea, who has written extensively about the Hoffa saga, said he was contacted by the FBI in September 2020, months after speaking to Frank Cappaola, the son of a key figure, and publishing a detailed account. □

EU awaits counterproposals from UK in Brexit standoff

By RAF CASERT
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Another week of Brexit negotiations still left the European Union awaiting a firm counterproposal from the United Kingdom on Friday to ease a standoff over how to deal with the country's departure from the bloc. Both sides are fighting over differences in how to regulate trade in Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K. but also belongs to the EU's huge single market in a Byzantine deal that proved essential in the Brexit divorce negotiations. Both sides recognize that deal is far from perfect and have been negotiating how to improve the movement of goods to Northern Ireland from Britain without giving London unfettered backdoor passage to the market of the 27-nation EU.



Britain's chief Brexit negotiator David Frost arrives for a media statement at EU headquarters in Brussels, Friday Nov. 19, 2021. Associated Press

While EU Brexit negotiator Maros Sefcovic said there was a "change in tone" for the better in London, he added that last month's EU compromise proposal to cut down on red tape between Britain and Northern Ireland needed to be reciprocated. "It is essential that the re-

cent change in tone now leads to joint tangible solutions," he said after meeting with his UK counterpart, David Frost. "We have not yet made substantive progress," on such things as customs and checks on animal transports, acknowledged Frost. They will meet again in Lon-

don next week. Negotiations have dragged on for a month, with Britain threatening to suspend parts of the legally binding divorce agreement between the two sides if no solution is found soon. Frost said triggering an emergency break clause known as Article 16 remains a real possibility. "If we can't safeguard positions on the problems in Northern Ireland through negotiations, then Article 16 safeguards are there as well," he said. Article 16 lets either side suspend portions of the Brexit agreement in extreme circumstances. A move by Britain to use it would trigger EU retaliation and could spiral into a trade war between the 27-nation bloc and its increasingly estranged former member.

Northern Ireland is part of the U.K. and shares a border with EU member Ireland. Under the Brexit deal agreed before the U.K. left the EU at the end of 2020, it remains inside the bloc's tariff-free single market for goods to ensure there is an open border on the island of Ireland — a key pillar of Northern Ireland's peace process. That has created a new customs border in the Irish Sea for goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K., even though they are part of the same country. It also has brought red tape for businesses and angered Northern Ireland's British Unionists, who say the checks undermine Northern Ireland's place in the U.K. and destabilize the delicate political balance on which peace rests. □

UK says it will make Hamas a banned terrorist organization

LONDON (AP) — The British government said Friday that it intends to ban the Palestinian militant group Hamas as a terrorist organization, saying it will no longer differentiate between the group's political and military wings. The military arm of Hamas has been outlawed in the U.K. since 2001 but the organization as a whole is not proscribed. Home Secretary Priti Patel, who is in charge of law and order issues, said she would proscribe the group "in its entirety, including its political wing." Patel said the group had "significant terrorist capability, including access to extensive and sophisticated weaponry, as well as terrorist training facilities." A ban, which must be approved by Parliament, would make it illegal in Britain to be a member of Hamas or to express support for the group, including by flying its flag or wearing a T-shirt to that end. The maximum penalty would be 14 years in prison. The government said it hoped the banning order



Britain's Home Secretary Priti Patel speaks at the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester, England, Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021. Associated Press

would be approved by Parliament within the week and take effect Nov. 26. Hamas, a Palestinian group that opposes Israel's existence, has governed the Gaza Strip since taking over the area in 2007, a year after it won a Palestinian election. Hamas is considered a terrorist group by Israel, the U.S. and the European Union. Israel welcomed the British announcement. Defense Minister Benny Gantz said it "sends a strong message of zero tolerance toward terrorist activities aimed at

harming the State of Israel and Jewish communities." In Gaza, Hamas expressed "shock and dismay" at the British government's decision and accused the U.K. of continuing "with its aggression against the Palestinian people." "The U.K. government should have apologized for its historic sin against the Palestinian people," the group said in a statement, referring to Britain's support for a Jewish state. "Now, the U.K. government sides with the aggressor against the victim." □

Dutch ban New Year's Eve fireworks amid soaring infections

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — New Year's Eve celebrations will again be muted in the Netherlands after the government banned fireworks on Dec. 31 for the second straight year amid soaring coronavirus infections. The ban is intended "to prevent, as much as possible, extra strain on health care, law enforcement and first responders," the government said Friday. The number of people treated for fireworks-related injuries dropped by 70% last year, the government said, in a welcome relief for Dutch hospitals already overburdened by COVID-19 patients. A financial compensation package will be put in place for fireworks sellers hit for the second time by a ban. Fireworks are only sold in the Netherlands in the days leading up to New Year's Eve. On the night, people traditionally take to the streets to set off fireworks around midnight. The government said that firework shows organized by municipalities are not covered by the ban and can go ahead if coronavirus restrictions allow it. Infections are rising steeply in the Netherlands and the government already has imposed a partial lockdown due to last at least two more weeks. □

Key aid group says Afghanistan's most pressing need is cash

By AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Afghanistan is facing a looming humanitarian crisis as aid organizations struggle with ways to pay doctors, nurses and others on the ground because there is currently no way to transfer salaries to bank accounts there, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

ICRC President Peter Maurer's comments echo those of the U.N.'s special representative for Afghanistan, who warned this week that the country is "on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe" and that its collapsing economy is heightening the risk of extremism. The country's economy is estimated to have contracted by 40% since the Taliban took control in August.

The Geneva-based ICRC, which has operated in Afghanistan for over 30 years, is temporarily carrying in bags of cash to the impoverished nation and converting dollars into the local currency, the afghani, in order to pay some of its staffers. The ICRC has been able to do this with regulatory approval by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control. The ICRC also has an agreement with the Taliban-run Health Ministry



A Taliban fighter secures the area as people queue to receive cash at a money distribution site organized by the World Food Program (WFP) in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

that allows donor-funded payments to pass through the ICRC and bypass the Taliban, who have yet to be officially recognized by any nation.

"The main problem in Afghanistan is not hunger. The main problem is the lack of cash to pay salaries to deliver social services which have existed before," Maurer told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday during a visit to Dubai. "Let's not forget that most of these medical doctors, nurses, operators of water systems and electricity systems are still the

same people. It is the leadership which has changed, but not these people," he added. Afghanistan's aid-reliant economy was thrown into deep turmoil following the Taliban takeover of the capital, Kabul, in August and the collapse of the U.S.-backed Afghan government just weeks before the U.S. withdrew its last troops.

The Taliban leadership, which recently banned all foreign currency transactions, has urged the U.S. Congress to ease sanctions and release Afghanistan's overseas assets in

order for the government to be able to pay teachers, doctors and other public sector employees. After the Taliban takeover, the U.S. froze nearly \$9.5 billion in assets belonging to the Afghan Central Bank and stopped shipments of cash. Since the Taliban's ascension to power this past summer, it's not been possible for international aid organizations to wire transfer payments to accounts in Afghanistan as currently international currency cannot be changed into local currency by a network of banks in the country.

Maurer said humanitarian organizations cannot "fix an implosion of a whole country." He said what's needed is an agreement on a sufficient injection of liquidity — something he believes is possible without formally recognizing the Taliban. The ICRC's budget until mid-2022 has increased from \$95 million to roughly \$163 million to address Afghanistan's increasingly urgent needs.

Hunger is just one of many problems facing millions in the country. The World Food Program has warned that nearly 9 million people in Afghanistan are at risk of facing "famine-like conditions." An additional 14.1 million are suffering acute food insecurity.

Maurer said the country could slide into a hunger crisis if drought impacts food production and if the disruption of the economy continues, but he stressed the immediate crisis facing Afghanistan remains paying salaries to keep basic services functioning.

"People who don't get enough food will get sick," Maurer said. "If the health system is not able to deal with the fragility of health, then this is again a problem. So I'm concerned about the interconnectivity of the food, health, water, sanitation, electricity and educational system." □



In this photo released by the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Eric Huang, newly appointed director to the representative office, third from right, poses with other staffers outside the Taiwan Representative Office in Vilnius, Lithuania on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

China threatens Lithuania over Taiwan office opening

BEIJING (AP) — China on Friday threatened to retaliate against Lithuania after the Baltic nation allowed Taiwan to open a representative office in its capital, Vilnius.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Lithuania would "reap what it sows," but gave no details. Zhao described Lithuania's move as an "egregious act" that "grossly interferes" in China's internal affairs. The office, which opened Thursday, bears the name Taiwan rather than "Chinese Taipei,"

which is used by the International Olympic Committee and many foreign nations to avoid offending China, which claims the self-governing island democracy as its own territory. Taiwan has just 15 formal diplomatic allies, but maintains informal ties with all major nations through trade offices that act as de facto embassies, including in the United States and Japan.

It wasn't clear what actions China plans to take in response to the opening of the office. Beijing has

already recalled its ambassador from Vilnius and expelled the Lithuanian ambassador.

Lithuania plans to open a representative office in Taipei by the end of the year and has withdrawn from the "17 plus one" arrangement launched by China to bind it closer to countries in Eastern Europe.

China's threat underscores its extreme sensitivity to any challenge to what it considers its "core interests," as it presses ahead with its increasingly assertive foreign policy. □

Brazil's Amazon deforestation surges to worst in 15 years

By DAVID BILLER

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The area deforested in Brazil's Amazon reached a 15-year high after a 22% jump from the prior year, according to official data published Thursday. The National Institute for Space Research's Prodes monitoring system showed the Brazilian Amazon lost 13,235 square kilometers of rainforest in the 12-month reference period from Aug. 2020 to July 2021. That's the most since 2006. The 15-year high flies in the face of Bolsonaro government's recent attempts to shore up its environmental credibility, having made overtures to the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden and moved forward its commitment to end illegal deforestation at the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow this month. The space agency's report, released Thursday, is dated Oct. 27 — before talks in Glasgow began.

The Brazilian Amazon hadn't recorded a single year with more than 10,000 square kilometers of deforestation in over a decade before Jair Bolsonaro's term started, in Jan. 2019. Between 2009 and 2018,



In this Nov. 25, 2019 file photo, highway BR-163 stretches between the Tapajós National Forest, left, and a soy field in Belterra, Para state, Brazil.

the average was 6,500 square kilometers. Since then, the annual average leapt to 11,405 square kilometers, and the three-year total is an area bigger than the state of Maryland.

"It is a shame. It is a crime," Márcio Astrini, executive secretary of the Climate Observatory, a network of environmental nonprofit groups, told The Associated Press. "We are seeing the Amazon rainforest

being destroyed by a government which made environmental destruction its public policy." Bolsonaro took office with promises to develop the Amazon, and dismissing global outcry about its destruction. His administration has defanged environmental authorities and backed legislative measures to loosen land protections, emboldening land grabbers. This week at a conference in

in the Amazon region. But its year-on-year increase was slight compared to Mato Grosso and Amazonas states, which together accounted for 34% of the region's destruction. The two states suffered 27% and 55% more deforestation, respectively.

And early data for the 2021-2022 reference period signals further deterioration. The space agency's monthly monitoring system, Deter, detected higher deforestation year-on-year during both September and October. Deter is less reliable than Prodes, but widely seen as a leading indicator.

"This is the real Brazil that the Bolsonaro government tries to hide with fantastical speeches and actions of greenwashing abroad," Mauricio Voivodic, international environmental group WWF's executive director for Brazil, said in a statement after release of the Prodes data. "The reality shows that the Bolsonaro government accelerated the path of Amazon destruction." □

Associated Press

the United Arab Emirates to attract investment, he told the crowd that attacks on Brazil for deforestation are unfair and that most of the Amazon remains pristine. The state of Para accounted for 40% of deforestation from Aug. 2020 to July 2021, according to the data, the most of any of nine states

Hong Kong declares wild boars fair game after animal attacks

By ZEN SOO

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong authorities have had enough of wild boars.

An increasing number of attacks by the animals, including one that bit a police officer last week, triggered an operation Wednesday night in a district less than half an hour's drive from Hong Kong's financial center. Experts used dart guns to capture seven wild boars, which were later put down via medicine injections, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said in a statement. Wild boars are a common sight in Hong Kong along hiking trails. They are often fed by people despite appeals by

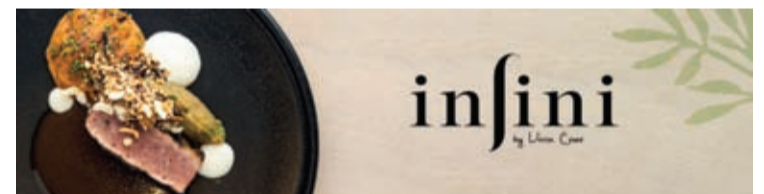


Wild boars eat bread as baits fed by officers from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

authorities not to do so as they could transmit diseases and may gather in large numbers. Previous attempts to relocate and sterilize the boars "could not effectively control the wild pig

nuisance," the department said. "A large group of wild pigs continued to wander and gather at the site, posing threats to members of the public and road users," the statement read. □



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A Better Future for Every Child

ORANJESTAD — Universal Children's Day is important. Why? Because today is the day you look at your child and be aware of all other children in the world and their life. This day you give more importance to the rights of each child and the blessing this young person is. United Nations established Universal Children's Day in 1954 to improve children's welfare, promote togetherness and create awareness worldwide.

Children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation and calling for adults to create a better

future. As the world recovers from the pandemic, it's more important than ever that we listen to them. It's time for generations to come together to reimagine the type of world we want to create. Today, your kids will reimagine a better world. What will you do?

Children are entitled to have rights and therefore November 20th is an important date. It is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. □



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'Angel of the day'

Janelle Bislik

Janelle is 6 years old and attends the day care Bibito Pin. This organization falls under the SVGA (Stichting Verstandelijk Gehandicapten Aruba) and Janelle is sitting there in a small group with 5 other children and teacher Tatiana. At Bibito Pin every child is stimulated on his or her own pace to develop further.

Janelle has not talked nor walked independently yet due to a brain disorder since birth. She is now often transported in a stroller and her mother Janette is negotiating about being awarded a child size wheelchair. Despite her limitations, Janelle enjoys going to the day care to play with the other children there and during the breaks at school she likes to cycle on a tricycle, because Janelle has already learned to ride a bicycle.

Janelle lives with her mother Janette. Behind the house and on the side of the house there is

a beautiful garden and her grandmother lives in the house next door. Especially for Janelle, they have built a staircase and a ramp at her house so that she is able to enter the house with her stroller and soon with her wheelchair.

Janelle gets physiotherapy 1 x a week at Bibito Pin and 1 x a week at home. The physiotherapy is given by pediatric physiotherapists from Micky's Foundation. She practices learning to stand and walk with a walker and she needs the rollator to help her with her balance. She also needs day and night splints to give support to her ankles and keep them in proper position. Janelle doesn't talk very much. She can say a few single words and is carefully learning more words every day. She understands a lot that happens around her and what is said to her. Soon she will be attending speech therapy in Aruba but this therapy is not covered by the insurance company AZV. However, AZV does reimburse wheelchairs which have to be requested at the doctor/specialist from the hospital. The company MartijnTrading will then arrange that the correct facility is provided and delivered. Splints should also be requested by a physician/specialist of the hospital, these are custom-made by the orthopedic shop of J.P. Visser.

Janette: "When Janelle receives therapy from Micky's Foundation, you can see that she is happy and enthusiastic. She gets along real well with the therapists which is a great benefit to her therapy. Honestly I don't know how it would have been had my daughter not got her therapy from the Micky's Foundation. Because the foundation also provides occupational therapists and preverbal speech therapists to Aruba, Janelle also has shown progress in small motor skills and pre-verbal communication." Today, on this International Children's Day is Janelle our 'Angel of the Day'.

Micky's Foundation

The Micky's Foundation has been in Aruba for 7 years. It has pediatric physiotherapists from the Netherlands and regularly too pediatric occupational therapists and preverbal speech therapists. The work of these care providers is on a

sponsored by:



voluntary basis against an expense allowance and exists as a supplement to regular care in Aruba. In the Netherlands for physiotherapists there is a follow-up course (Master's degree) up to pediatric physiotherapist. There has also recently been a similar follow up course for occupational therapists. Speech therapists already receive a lot of knowledge about the treatment of children during their own education. All therapists who work for Micky's Foundation have specialist knowledge and experience with the target group of the foundation: children and young people (0-21) with a physical and/or mental disability in Aruba. We are currently working with 2 pediatric physiotherapists for a period of 3 months. The treatments are partly done in schools and partly at the families' home and is additional to the care that is already being provided. The therapy offered to the children is totally free. The foundation is therefore completely dependent on donations.

For more information on Micky's Foundation go to www.mickysfoundation.com. □



Star of the day:

Tanique Fatima Chan

I have rights as well!



Tanique Fatima Chan is a very special young girl. She is 18 years old and her smile brightens up the place wherever she goes. Tanique is attending Muchila Creativo

School and love going to school. After school she takes also other classes such as modeling and dancing and she is always so energetic.

Tanique is very intelligent and a very talented model. At the beginning she was very shy, but throughout the years she managed to work on that and became very social.

Tanique loves going out to eat and loves eating chocolate and cake.

Tanique's message to all the children of Aruba is to remember to go to school every day because school is fun and you learn a lot.

Chastity Kock-Hodge of 'The Chaz Modelling & Talent School' gave an opportunity to Tanique in which she learned modelling and dancing and is very proud of all that Tanique has accomplished. Children with disabilities deserve to be included. Give them an opportunity they deserve. □

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PALM BEACH - Don't spend a single moment of your long awaited holiday in Aruba thinking about your return testing. The Covid Test Center Aruba located at the Paseo Herencia Mall is your travel ally. Just sit back and relax knowing that, when the time comes, their professional staff will make this process a breeze for you. No need to make an appointment or dread the nasal swab; you'll be done with it in a matter of minutes and back to fun stuff.

Some regions require proof or certification of negative

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day before will suffice. A great game plan is to test first, then head out for an evening of dining, shopping and entertainment at the Paseo Herencia Mall, home of the water and lights show in the evenings. By the time you are back at the hotel, your results will be ready in your inbox.

A PCR test costs \$75 and results are ready the next day, while Antigen test costs \$35 with same day results. If you are staying at an off-high-rise area property, you can benefit from the free parking our customers receive at the mall lot.).

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How to be a 5-star traveler this holiday season

By **SALLY FRENCH**
of **NerdWallet**

If you skipped holiday travel last year (or haven't traveled at all during the pandemic), your travel skills might be rusty. Plus, some travel etiquette has changed.

Recent history indicates that this holiday travel season will be challenging, as evidenced by chaos seen over this year's holiday and summer weekends. More than 2,800 Spirit Airlines flights were canceled during a busy travel weekend this summer. Over separate October weekends, American Airlines canceled hundreds of flights, and Southwest canceled more than 1,800. All those events were attributed in part to staffing shortages.

While you might feel understandably surly over a situation that causes you to miss a trip or forces you to pay for a last-minute hotel, sour attitudes probably won't fix things.

Being courteous might get you the preferred room, the last available seat or a complimentary upgrade. Plus, being proactive could make travel more efficient for not just you, but everyone else. Here are five tips to help you be a five-star traveler this holiday season.

MAKE OTHERS' WORK MORE EFFICIENT

You've heard the incessant announcements at the



A traveler walks in Terminal 3 as a sign stating face coverings are required is displayed at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Friday, July 2, 2021.

Associated Press

boarding gate, pleading with people to check their roller bags on full flights.

The earlier you check your bag, the earlier it's loaded. If the last person to board is the one whose bag gets pried from their hands and sent to cargo, it's more likely that takeoff will be delayed than had all bags been loaded earlier.

Thankfully, many airline credit cards offer free checked bags, and it's also a perk often offered to airline elite status members. So you might want to think about checking your bag at the counter before you even get through security. Or, if you know you'll be last to board anyway, gate-check it early.

When it comes to cleaning, many hotel companies provide housekeeping only upon request. Consider if you really need it — or if

you can make your own bed.

The leisure and hospitality industry lost 8.2 million jobs in March and April 2020 — an employment decline of 49%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. While travel-related jobs are returning (the air transportation sector added 9,200 jobs in October and the accommodations sector added 23,200 jobs), be cognizant that employees may be new, and companies may still be short-staffed.

If you use services like housekeeping, tip generously.

USE TECH TO SPEED THINGS UP

In some cases, technology can solve problems you might otherwise have needed an employee for. Use mobile check-in to display your airline boarding

pass on your phone, no printing necessary. You can also expedite your security wait time with apps like Clear, which use biometric data and allow you to skip to the front of the line. Some hotels can send virtual keys via mobile check-in, so you can skip the front desk altogether. Preorder meals online so cashiers don't have to take your order.

RESPECT COVID SAFETY POLICIES

A June letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland from 10 major pilot and flight attendant unions cited a "substantial increase in and growing escalation of passengers' unruly and disruptive behavior on-board aircraft, particularly toward crewmembers."

About 73% of 2021's unruly passenger reports have been mask-related, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

"The duty of enforcing this rule falls to our pilots and flight attendants at 30,000 feet, and passengers who refuse to comply make our difficult jobs harder than they have to be," said Capt. Eric Ferguson, president of the Allied Pilots Association, a union representing American Airlines pilots, in an August statement.

Even if you disagree with policies, respect the employees who have to follow them. And understand

that COVID-19 safety rules vary by location. One city might be tougher than another, so don't be surprised if your road trip lunch break is mask-free but you're required to don masks during dinner.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

Given the rate of unruly passenger reports, it's perhaps no coincidence that some airlines have suspended in-flight alcoholic beverage service. Even if you're having a tippie in the terminal before takeoff, drink and act appropriately.

Anywhere you go, have respect for others' personal space — especially during a pandemic — and remember that a little kindness goes a long way in the service industry.

GO AHEAD AND COMPLAIN (TO THE RIGHT PERSON)

It's OK to complain when things are truly bad. Most travel companies offer online customer service forms, and many use social media to field complaints. Just remember that the customer service employee may not have the power to immediately fix the situation.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Sure, there are the grumpy or entitled folk who act like one-star travelers at airports and hotels, but it doesn't help anyone to be that person. To have a five-star travel experience, first be a five-star traveler yourself. □

With supply short, Ford dips toe into computer chip business

DETROIT (AP) — Ford Motor Co. is in talks with a computer chip maker to shore up its semiconductor supplies and avoid a repeat of this year's auto factory shutdowns caused by semiconductor shortages.

Few details of the nonbinding agreement with GlobalFoundries Inc. were released, but the deal aims to boost supplies with joint development of automotive-grade chips. And it could result in joint manufacturing to support the auto industry, the companies said Thursday in a prepared statement.

Ford has been hit particu-

larly hard by a global chip shortage that has weighed on nearly every automaker. Like other companies, Ford at times has had to temporarily close auto plants and even build models without some computers, and installing them later. The company's U.S. sales fell 27% from July through September and it lost 2.4 percentage points of market share largely because it couldn't produce enough vehicles to meet consumer demand.

"This agreement is just the beginning, and a key part of our plan to vertically integrate key technologies

and capabilities," said CEO Jim Farley, who is pushing Ford to develop more of its supply chain to ensure the parts keep flowing.

Spokeswoman Jennifer Flake said the companies are at the "memorandum of understanding" phase of their relationship but want to work together to design chips and possibly leverage their manufacturing experience.

GlobalFoundries, based about three hours north of New York City in the town of Malta, says on its website that it has chip factories in the U.S., Germany and Singapore, and is among the



In this April 25, 2021 file photograph, the blue oval logo of Ford Motor Company is shown in east Denver.

Associated Press

world's largest independent semiconductor makers with more than 15,000 employees.

Financial details of the

agreement were not released, it does not involve cross-ownership between the companies, the statement said. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Toodle-oo!" accessories
 - 5 Pillow covers
 - 10 Ghana's capital
 - 12 Eye part
 - 13 Betray, in a way
 - 14 Be penitent
 - 15 Dude's address
 - 16 Highish card
 - 18 Golf position
 - 19 Calendar column
 - 21 Novel need
 - 22 Realize one was wrong
 - 24 Small amphibians
 - 25 When the slopes are busy
 - 29 Fashion line?
 - 30 Tennis great Gibson
 - 32 Caboose, e.g.
 - 33 Course employee
 - 34 Jiffy
 - 35 1836 battle site
 - 37 Riyal spender
- DOWN**
- 1 No-no on some diets
 - 2 Doomed flier
 - 3 Play opener
 - 4 Gold, to Coronado
 - 5 Cross
 - 6 Crude building
 - 7 Twin of Artemis
 - 8 Servile follower
 - 9 Wintry weather
 - 11 Star in Scorpio
 - 17 Glasses
 - 20 Casual fabric
 - 21 "Hey! Yeah, you!"
 - 23 Bewildered
 - 25 Close tightly
 - 26 Dojo sport
 - 27 "That's just great ..."
 - 28 Required
 - 29 Swindles
 - 31 Lab liquids
 - 33 Fence feature
 - 36 Chess pieces
 - 38 Melody

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Yesterday's answer

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41						42			

11-20

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

G E L G A Y X L J X D J
Q G R N W J I Y L Y J D Y X L J X D J
D Y R N W Y Q Y L Y J D J R J T V J .

— Z Y X D L G X Q B E T Q B Y W W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT YOUR IDEA MUCH MORE READILY IF YOU TELL THEM BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SAID IT FIRST. — DAVID H. COMINS

NYC aims to be first to rein in AI hiring tools



Dr. Frida Polli, co-founder and CEO Pymetrics, talks about AI technology used to assess job skills during an interview with The Associated Press at the Pymetrics headquarters, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, in New York.

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Job candidates rarely know when hidden artificial intelligence tools are rejecting their resumes or analyzing their video interviews. But New York City residents could soon get more say over the computers making behind-the-scenes decisions about their careers. A bill passed by the city council in early November would ban employers from using automated hiring tools unless a yearly bias audit can show they won't discriminate based on an applicant's race or gender. It would also force makers of those AI tools to disclose more about their opaque workings and give candidates the option of choosing an alternative process — such as a human — to review their application.

Proponents liken it to another pioneering New York City rule that became a national standard-bearer earlier this century — one that required chain restaurants to slap a calorie count on their menu items. Instead of measuring hamburger health, though, this measure aims to open a

Associated Press

window into the complex algorithms that rank the skills and personalities of job applicants based on how they speak or what they write. More employers, from fast food chains to Wall Street banks, are relying on such tools to speed up recruitment, hiring and workplace evaluations.

"I believe this technology is incredibly positive but it can produce a lot of harms if there isn't more transparency," said Frida Polli, co-founder and CEO of New York startup Pymetrics, which uses AI to assess job skills through game-like online assessments. Her company lobbied for the legislation, which favors firms like Pymetrics that already publish fairness audits.

But some AI experts and digital rights activists are concerned that it doesn't go far enough to curb bias, and say it could set a weak standard for federal regulators and lawmakers to ponder as they examine ways to rein in harmful AI applications that exacerbate inequities in society.

"The approach of auditing for bias is a good one. The problem is New York City took a very weak and

vague standard for what that looks like," said Alexandra Givens, president of the Center for Democracy & Technology. She said the audits could end up giving AI vendors a "fig leaf" for building risky products with the city's imprimatur.

Givens said it's also a problem that the proposal only aims to protect against racial or gender bias, leaving out the trickier-to-detect bias against disabilities or age. She said the bill was recently watered down so that it effectively just asks employers to meet existing requirements under U.S. civil rights laws prohibiting hiring practices that have a disparate impact based on race, ethnicity or gender. The legislation would impose fines on employers or employment agencies of up to \$1,500 per violation — though it will be left up to the vendors to conduct the audits and show employers that their tools meet the city's requirements.

The City Council voted 38-4 to pass the bill on Nov. 10, giving a month for outgoing Mayor Bill De Blasio to sign or veto it or let it go into law unsigned. De Blasio's office says he supports the bill but hasn't said if he will sign it. If enacted, it would take effect in 2023 under the administration of Mayor-elect Eric Adams.

Julia Stoyanovich, an associate professor of computer science who directs New York University's Center for Responsible AI, said the best parts of the proposal are its disclosure requirements to let people know they're being evaluated by a computer and where their data is going.

"This will shine a light on the features that these tools are using," she said.

But Stoyanovich said she was also concerned about the effectiveness of bias audits of high-risk AI tools — a concept that's also being examined by the White House, federal agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and lawmakers in Congress and the European Parliament. □

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Ban on lobster fishing to save whales is back, court rules



A North Atlantic right whale feeds on the surface of Cape Cod bay off the coast of Plymouth, Mass., March 28, 2018.

Associated Press

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

A U.S. appeals court has reinstated a ban on lobster harvesting in hundreds of miles of productive fishing waters off the Maine coast to try to protect rare whales.

The Maine Lobstering Union had won emergency relief to stop the closure of lobstering grounds, which federal regulators ruled was needed to help protect endangered North Atlantic right whales from extinction.

But the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that the closure is back on. Removing the ban prevents the government from performing its task of protecting the whales from death by entanglement in gear, the court ruled.

The government's role is "assuring the right whales are protected from a critical risk of death," the court ruled.

The whales number less than 340 and are vulnerable to lethal entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with large ships. The New England lobster fishery has had to contend with a host of new restrictions to try to protect the whales. The new rules make an approximately 950-square-mile

area of the Gulf of Maine essentially off limits to lobster fishing from October to January.

The appeals court's ruling sent the case back to the U.S. district court level to resolve any disputes that concern the removal of the banned gear from the restricted area. Previously, the district court ruled there was not enough evidence the whales gather in the area with enough frequency to render it a whale "hot spot."

Fishermen must now remove gear, and are prohibited from setting or re-

setting gear in the restricted area, the National Marine Fisheries Service said in a statement Wednesday. The agency, which is an arm of the federal government, said it anticipates it could take up to two weeks for all gear to be removed from the restricted area.

"North Atlantic right whales are in crisis and approaching extinction with fewer than 400 remaining, due primarily to the serious injuries and deaths they have suffered from entanglements and vessel strikes," said agency spokesperson Lauren Gaches in the

statement.

Commercial fishing groups have criticized the National Marine Fisheries Service over the right whale rules and said the rules threaten to endanger the future of Maine's iconic fishery while failing to protect the whales.

The Maine Lobstermen's Association will continue to fight the fishing restrictions in court, said Patrice McCarron, the group's executive director.

"Nevertheless, it fore-shadows the grave future our lobster fishery faces if NMFS's 10-year whale plan is not rescinded in favor of a plan based on science," McCarron said.

Environmental groups cheered the court's ruling on Wednesday. The court's decision affirms that "reducing entanglements by prohibiting fishing in this area is critical to ensuring the survival of right whales," said Erica Fuller, a senior attorney at the Conservation Law Foundation. □



ARUBA TODAY

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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Ted Lasso's Sudeikis helps raise funds for prosthetic limbs

By HALELUYA HADERO

AP Business Writer

With an Emmy win and a hit Apple TV+ series under his belt, Jason Sudeikis is having one big year.

The show, of course, is "Ted Lasso," where Sudeikis plays an upbeat and good-natured American football coach who takes charge of a professional British soccer team despite knowing little about the game.

The fish-out-of-water comedy has been a welcome escape for many fans dealing with pandemic blues and other stressful events marking the past 15 months. The second season of the series explored the mental health struggles of Sudeikis' character. And its anyone's guess what the third — reportedly set to begin filming in January — will bring. Amid the success, Sudeikis recently returned to his hometown of Kansas City to host Thundergong!, an annual benefit concert for a charity that helps amputees who lack proper health coverage pay for prosthetic limbs.

The event, which will stream Saturday, will raise money for Steps of Faith Foundation. The Kansas City-based organization is headed Billy Brimblecom Jr, a drummer and longtime friend. Sudeikis fundraised to get Brimblecom a prosthetic leg after he was diagnosed by a form of cancer that required him to undergo a leg amputation.

The AP recently talked with the two friends about the concert, Ted Lasso and other things. The interview was edited for clarity and length.

AP: I read you two met at an improv workshop in Kansas City in 1995. What was that meeting like?

Sudeikis: We did a thing called "Comedy Sportz," which still exists in a few cities. Although in Kansas City, it's now called "Comedy City." We were doing workshops. I think we auditioned and they liked the cut of our jib. I was a junior. No, I just graduated. Right? Was it the summer of '94 or '95?

Brimblecom: It was the



Jason Sudeikis appears with his awards for outstanding lead actor in a comedy series and best comedy series for "Ted Lasso" at the 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

summer of '95. I auditioned in the spring of '95. I was a senior, and you were at Fort Scott.

Sudeikis: Yeah. We were just doing workshops, like a six-week workshop or something like that. I think we auditioned and they liked the cut of our jib. We hit it off there.

AP: Billy, many people would argue the work that you do shouldn't be dependent on charities, or fundraising. And that we need a bigger overhaul of our healthcare system to address it.

Brimblecom: Oh, how much time we got? The fact that I have this job is ridiculous. The fact something like Steps of Faith needs to exist, and that somebody who has lost a limb is not just covered is injustice.

I always like to say our healthcare system is a misnomer, because there's no care there. And the problem is health insurance companies. At Steps of Faith, we don't comment on anything controversial unless it directly affects the work we do. So here we go: The health insurance system is completely and totally ridiculous. They don't

care about you. They don't care about me, or Jason, and they don't care about the doctors.

AP: What do you think of that, Jason?

Sudeikis: Oh, I 100% agree with him.

AP: What should people expect to see if they tune into the concert on Saturday?

Brimblecom: They should expect just a really fun show. It's funny and sweet, and it rocks. There's great music. This is the most, I think you would agree, Jason, this is the most diverse lineup we've had.

Sudeikis: Yeah, it's definitely a musical variety benefit concert. We have a bunch of bands and solo artists, but also comedians, like Will Forte, Fred Armisen, and Heidi Gardner, all SNL active and alums. Fred and Will have done it every year. Heidi is from Kansas City.

AP: Is there a particular amount that you want to raise this year?

Sudeikis: We're trying to help 185 people. I went out on a limb and said, I think we could get 200. Billy knows better than me because he's actually in it.

Brimblecom: I look at the

P&L.

Sudeikis: Yeah, I don't even know what P&L means. (laughs)

Brimblecom: It's profit and loss. I didn't learn it until I had this job.

So this year, Steps of Faith's goal is to help 185 amputees, like Jason said, We're on track to hit that, and hopefully beat it. Maybe we'll get to 200. So I will love for this event to raise at least \$500,000. It's Saturday, 7 p.m. Central time, all across planet earth.

Sudeikis: And beyond. They probably get the internet elsewhere.

AP: Well, what do you guys think about aliens? That's a good question.

Sudeikis: (Laughs) Well, if they've got money to give to help us out, we'll take it.

Brimblecom: Where do you think 'cryptocurrency' comes from?

Sudeikis: Good point (laughs). We'll take bitcoin and moon rocks.

Brimblecom: (laughs) We'll take it all.

AP: Jason, on "Ted Lasso", do you feel pressure to top the prior seasons as you get ready to film the third one?

Sudeikis: It's only the pressure that we put on our-

selves. We're still making it the same way we made the first two. It's been nice that people have really responded to the show. And there's certainly a great deal of truth in "Mo' Money, Mo' Problems." But we try to use that enthusiasm for the show, both as just another crayon in the crayon box and another thing to sort of help us guide our storytelling and where we want to take the characters. But the outside pressure is less than the pressure I think we feel within ourselves. In the same way we felt the first two years.

AP: Is your character going to come back to the U.S. at any point?

Sudeikis: I don't know. Maybe? A 'yes' or a 'no' would fall into the category of spoilers.

AP: What are you thinking about season four? Is that a possibility?

Sudeikis: Anything is a possibility. But I sound like an actual coach whenever I answer this. We're worried about one season at a time. We're in the middle of writing season three, and we can't think too far beyond that at this point. □

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Weekly SPECIALS



SAVE
\$0.31

Muenster Cheese

\$1.09

100 GR



SAVE
\$1.14

Koopmans Roombater Bladerdeeg 450gr

\$2.85

Each



SAVE
\$2.01

BBQ/Grill Chicken Wings Mumbay

\$4.57

Per KG



SAVE
\$1.71

Watermelon with Seed (USA)

\$8.57

Each



SAVE
\$1.19

Beef Cut Small Brasil

\$9.09

Per KG



SAVE
\$1.19

Minut Steak Brasil

\$9.14

Per KG



SAVE
\$2.23

Pork Sausage (Beef/Pork)

\$6.85

Per KG



SAVE
\$0.29

Danish Salami

\$1.31

100 GR



SAVE
\$0.34

Turkey Pastrami

\$1.02

100 GR



SAVE
\$0.28

Colby Jack Cheese

\$0.97

100 GR



SAVE
\$0.57

Cabbage Green USA

\$1.71

Per KG



\$1.71

Carrots Jumbo

Per KG



SAVE
\$1.71

Zucchini Green Med

\$2.85

Per KG



SAVE
\$0.17

Melkan Geraspt Gouda Oud 175 gr

\$3.42

Each



SAVE
\$0.46

Toufayan Plain Bagels 20oz

\$2.28

Each



SAVE
\$0.57

EE Hashbrown Patties 10oz

\$3.37

Each



SAVE
\$0.57

Lofthouse Snickerdoodle Cookies 15oz

\$3.99

Each



SAVE
\$0.80

EE Shredded Wheat Bite Size 16.4oz

\$3.59

Each



SAVE
\$0.29

EE Macaroni & Cheese 7.25oz

\$0.85

Each



SAVE
\$0.17

Promasa Harina Pan Blanco 1KG

\$1.50

Each



SAVE
\$0.29

Pillsbury Funfetti Cake Mix 15.25oz

\$2.22

Each



SAVE
\$0.57

Chobani Oat Drink Plain & Vanilla 52oz

\$5.48

Each



SAVE
\$0.95

EQ Woman 5 Blade 3ct

\$5.14

Each



SAVE
\$0.57

Old Spice Deodorant Spray White water 150ml

\$2.85

Each



SAVE
\$1.14

Head & Shoulders 2in1 Assorted 450ml

\$3.99

Each